

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.

New claims 15-38 have been added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 and 4-16 are now pending in this application. Claims 7-14 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-4 are objected to for containing informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims render these objections moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over CN 1 413 797 to Peng *et al.* (hereafter “Peng”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Peng discloses a soldering method for aluminum and copper that uses an active connecting agent that includes nanometer powder, water, organic cellulose, and non-corrosion flux. See abstract of Peng. However, as noted on page 4 of the Office Action, Peng does not disclose an amount of nanometer powder that is used in the connecting agent. Therefore, Peng does not anticipate claim 1 because Peng fails to disclose all of the features of claim 1. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to modify the connecting agent of Peng to provide the flux of claim 1 because Peng fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of the flux of claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,916,635 to Ishii *et al.* (hereafter “Ishii”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ishii discloses water-based hydrophilic coatings that impart a hydrophilic nature to the surface of aluminum materials, such as aluminum fins for heat exchangers. See col. 1, lines 8-12, of Ishii. Ishii teaches that such a coating is used to minimize the condensation of water into globules on the surface of the fins, which form water bridges between the fins that cause an increased resistance to air flow and lowered heat exchange efficiency. See col. 1, lines 15-26, of Ishii. Ishii also discloses that the coating is applied to the fins and dried by heating. See col. 6, lines 61-65, of Ishii.

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Peng and Ishii because the coating of Ishii is widely divergent from the connection agent of Peng. The connection agent of Peng is a material that is used to solder and joint materials, as disclosed by Peng. However, the material disclosed by Ishii is merely used to provide a hydrophilic coating to minimize condensation of water into globules, as disclosed by Ishii. Ishii does not disclose or suggest that the coating of Ishii can be used in a joining process, such as soldering or brazing. Because of their differences in subject matter, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to the coating of Ishii when considering modifications to the connecting agent of Peng. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of these references.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng and Ishii, as applied to claims 2 and 3, and further in view of EP 1 287 941 to Englert *et al.* (hereafter “Englert”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Englert fails to remedy the deficiencies of Peng and Ishii discussed above in regard to independent claim 1, from which claims 5 and 6 depend. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1 and 3 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 14-17, and 20 of co-pending application 11/996,712. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 14, and 24 of U.S. Pub. No. 2008/0038471. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicant submits that the amendments to claim 1, which has been amended to include features of claims 2 and 3, render these rejections moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 15-38 have been added. Claims 15-38 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over the prior art for at least the reasons discussed above and for their respective additional recitations.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By P.D.S.

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